

petitions would not confess their wrongdoing and it would be rather difficult to furnish legal evidence as to the real cause of the inertia.

It sometimes happens however that trading in petitions is not practicable and the petitioner in such cases proceeds to trial. Surely, then, nothing can occur to check a full investigation and exposure of all corrupt acts? Unfortunately, the proceedings are still in the hands of the parties and the investigation may be stopped by the making of certain admissions relating to a few violations of the Act technically sufficient to unseat the respondent, and this result having been accomplished all further exposure is generally avoided. The petitioner having secured the main object of the petition does not wish to incur the risk of costs in pressing for further inquiry and thus the whole matter ends.

Reference has been made to cases where petitions are actually filed, but there have been scores of cases where evidence was obtainable which would show bribery in various constituencies and amply justify the filing of a petition and yet no petition was ever filed. The law requires the deposit of \$1,000 in connection with the proceedings by petition and sometimes there may be difficulty in procuring this sum in certain constituencies. Again, the defeated candidate and his friends may feel that while bribery was indulged in by the agents of his opponent, his own agents in some instances were also guilty. Moreover, if the successful candidate is a supporter of the party which wins at a general election there would be very little purpose in unseating him because he would again be nominated, except in the very rare case of personal disqualification, and would be almost certain to be elected by a larger majority than at the general elections,—it being considered by many of the electorate, as one writer humorously puts it, "contrary to the genius of our institutions" to vote against a government in a bye-election following upon the general elections. In many instances, therefore, there is not sufficient incentive to induce the defeated candidate or his friends to deposit \$1,000 and undertake the trouble and annoyance of carrying a petition to a successful termination. The result is, therefore, that